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Abrus precatorius L. (Leguminosae)

چشم خروس

Chashm-i-khurūs (Pers.); Rati (Hind.); Jequirity (Tupi, Brazil); Paternoster seed, Indian licorice.

Schl.; Fl. Br. Ind. 2: 175; Ph. Ind. 1: 430.

W.H.M.M. 150736; K.B. 301.

This plant is cosmopolitan in the tropics and grows in India. The well-known scarlet seeds, with a black spot at one end, are exported from India to Iran and other countries in the West, and are made into necklaces and rosaries. They were formerly used in India as a standard weight by goldsmiths, the average weight of a seed being 1.7 grams.

In medicine the seeds are said to have hilarant properties, and in Iran they are classified among the poisons. The seeds contain toxalbumin, a protein body. The leaves and root contain sugars (D. Hooper, *Pharm. Journ.* 1894, 937).

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Acacia Senegal Willd. (Leguminosae)

صمغ ارژن

Samgh-i-arzhan, Angūm (Teh.); Samgh Arabi (Ar., Pers., Iraq); gum arabic.

Field 78A, 257; 80, 70 (Iraq); W.H.M.M. 150716.

Acacia Senegal is the chief source of gum arabic of commerce, but in the Eastern bazaars many gums are sold which are procured from various other trees. Schlimmer in his "Terminologie" speaks of Gummi nostras or indigenous gum obtained from cherry and prune trees.

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Acanthophyllum squarrosum Boiss. (Caryophyllaceae)

شیر کلن

Shir Kalan (Teh.); the root.

W.H.M.M. 150848.

This is one of the Irani soap-roots. It is smaller than the usual roots supplied by species of Gypsophylla, as it occurs in pieces 8 to 18 mm. in diameter, has an exterior of light brown, twisted spirally, with a white, starchy interior showing yellowish, woody rays. The root has a slightly bitter taste and contains small quantities of saponin.

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Adiantum Capillus-Veneris L. (Polypodiaceae)

پر سیاوش

Parr-i-siyāvash, Kashburat (Teh.); Kashburat-el-bir, "coriander of the wall" (Pers.); Krafas-al-bir, Shar-al-anat (Iraq); Kansburaj, Moohar-khas (Ind. bazaars); the fronds.

Ait.; Post; Schl.; Ph. Ind. 3: 624.

Field 49; W.H.M.M. 150714; K.B. 302.

The maidenhair fern is found in Iran, Afghanistan, the northwestern Himalayas, and western China, but other species of ferns are used medicinally and are called by similar names. The fronds of the fern are usually supplied, but the rhizome is credited with expectorant properties and is given for relieving difficult respiration and for spasms in whooping cough.

—A maidenhair fern decoction is served as a cooling drink during the summer (H.F.). [272]

Agaric (Fungi) [262]

قارچ

Qārch (Teh.); Kriwarik (Turk.); dried mushrooms.

Field 242; W.H.M.M. 150775.

This is a portion of a hard fungus, gray brown on the outside and whitish within, 4 to 5 inches across. A notation is made on one sample that it is a vermifuge. Schlimmer identifies "Ghartsche" as *Agaricus esculentus*, one of the edible mushrooms, of which there are numerous species. For agaricum of the Greeks, Ghariqun, see *Polyporus officinalis*.

Alhagi camelorum Fisch. (Leguminosae)

تر نجبین

Tar-anjubin (Teh.); "green honey"; manna.

Field 1; W.H.M.M. 150888.

The camel's thorn (Kār shūtur, Pers.) is a thorny shrub found in the deserts of Iran, Syria, and Egypt. A saccharine exudation forms on the plant. It is shaken off the branches, collected, and used as a sweetmeat and in medicine. It is supposed to be the "greenish cake" of Layard's "Travels," but this secretion was collected from oak trees (see *Quercus*). The white grains of manna separated from the pods, stalks, and leaves contain chiefly cane sugar; this is administered as a laxative and expectorant. [314] • [263]

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water and alcohol, odorless but with a sweetish taste. It contains a principle similar to glycyrrhizin. Sarcocolla[1] forms a plaster long used by Parsi bone-setters, and is applied locally to the ears and face to allay neuralgic pains. Aitchison says the gum is used by ladies of the harem to improve their appearance and to give the skin a gloss (see "Sarcocolla" by D. Hooper, *Journ. As. Soc. Bengal*, Vol. 9, 1913, pp. 177–181).

Astragalus gummifer Labill. (Leguminosae)

كثيرا

Kathīrā (Teh.); Qatera, Katira gond (Hind.); gum Tragacanth. Field 128; W.H.M.M. 150861.

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The small, branching, thorny shrubs of *Astragalus* are especially to be found in Asiatic Turkey and Iran, where they form one of the most characteristic features of the vegetation. The above and other species yield, when incised, flat, ribbon-shaped pieces, or, when punctured, vermiform tears. The tragacanth gum from Tehran is in clean white ribbons, typical of the best commercial quality, largely used in medicine and confectionery.

Astragalus hamosus L. (Leguminosae)

اكليل الملك

Iklīl (Teh.); Iklīl-ul-malik (Ar.); Adhafir-aj-jian, Adhafir-ash-shaitan (Iraq); Iklil-ul-mulk (Bom.); Aketi (Ham.); the curved pods. Field 145; W.H.M.M. 150889; K.B. 342.

The origin of this drug has been referred to various species of *Melilotus* and *Trigonella* which have curved pods. Those received from Tehran and Hamadan are horseshoe-shaped, 2.5 cm. in length, grayish brown, smooth, curved outward, grooved on both sides, and beaked; they are divided by a central partition and contain grayish yellow, rhomboidal seeds, notched at one end and with black spots. The pods are called in Iraq "Fairies' Nails" or "Devil's Claws," and are used for various disorders, but chiefly as a suppurative and astringent. Sometimes they are made into a plaster for reducing tumorous and painful swellings.—Mixed with *Viola* sp., they are taken before purgation (H.F.).

Bambusa arundinacea L. (Gramineae)

تبا شير قلمى

Tabāshīr-i-qalamī (Teh.); Tabashira (Ar.); Bans lochan (Hind.); mineral concretion in stems of bamboo.

[1] [i.e., the gum of Astragalus fasciculaefolius, Kohl Farsi -- Analyst]

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(4) Mangel-wurzel should succeed in Kurdistan.

(5) Wild beets, known as Silaijah or Silaigah.

Boswellia Carterii Bird. (Burseraceae)

كندر

Kundur (Teh.); Seta Kundura (Hind.); frankincense or olibanum. Field 199.

• [314] There are several kinds of this fragrant oleo-gum-resin found in commerce. Kundura zakara, "male frankincense," is in reddish or deep yellow, circular tears; Kundura unsa, "female frankincense," is in yellowish white, translucent or pale tears; Kisher Kundur or Dhupa of the bazaars occurs in scaly pieces of the bark coated with the exudation.—Olibanum is used chiefly as incense; it is an ingredient in plasters; a dose of half a misqal (35 grains) is said to improve the memory (H.F.).

Brassica campestris L. var. **Napus** Bab. (Cruciferae)

تخم شلغم

Tukhm-i-shalgham (Teh.); Sarsun (Hind.); rape or colza seed. Field 54 (Iraq); W.H.M.M. 150856.

[252] [373] This is an important crop in India and elsewhere, cultivated chiefly for its seed. Rape seeds are small, brownish or reddish brown, 2 mm. in diameter, smooth. They yield by expression a bland oil used as an emollient and in cooking and lighting.

Brassica (Sinapis) **nigra** (L.) Koch, and **B. alba** Rabenh. (Cruciferae)

خردل

Khardal.

[263] Mustard, now a widespread weed, is of Eurasian origin. The powdered seeds are an important condiment, used in curries, and medicinally in the preparation of poultices and plasters. Mustard is taken internally as an emetic in cases of narcotic poisoning (G.).

Butea frondosa Roxb. (Leguminosae)

برگ هند ایران

Barg-i-hind īrān, Parakeh-i-hindī (Teh.); Palaspapado (Duk.); Palas Keby (Hind.); seeds of bastard teak or Bengal kino tree. Field 181; W.H.M.M. 150818.

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The yellow larkspur is a perennial herb in desert regions of Iran and Iraq, with shoots 2 feet high, each bearing a terminal spike of yellow flowers. The dried petals are of commercial importance, yielding a valuable yellow dye for silk, and are exported for this purpose in large quantities to Turkestan, Afghanistan, and even to India, where the flowers, to a small extent, are employed in medicine.

Dolichos Lablab L. (Leguminosae)

لوبیاگل

Lūbiyā-gul (Teh.); Sim (Hind.); Simbi (Sans.); kidney bean.

Field 99.

This is a climbing perennial, or, under cultivation, an annual, common in India, where the seeds, which vary much in form and color, are employed as food. The beans from Tehran are black and brown, 15 by 10 mm., with a white hilum.

Dorema Ammoniacum Don (Umbelliferae)

وشا

Vashā (Teh.); Ushna ushek (Pers.); Kandal (Afg.); Samagh Hamama (Hind.); gum ammoniacum.

W.H.M.M. 150769.

The plant yielding this exudation is found in the desert regions of Afghanistan and Iran. The light colored gum-resin occurs in rounded tears, agglutinated masses, or cakes; it breaks with an opaque, shining or yellow conchoidal fracture, forming a milky emulsion with water. The drug has a faint, peculiar odor, and a bitter, nauseous taste. The gum is stimulating, expectorant, and laxative. Externally it acts as a resolvent, and is used as a plaster in asthmatic cases, and for indolent tumors and glandular swellings.

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Doronicum Pardalianches L. (Compositae)

درونج اقربی

Darūnaj-i-akrabī (Teh., Ham.); Darvunedge eghrebi (Schl.); Doronic (Gr.); Doronicum Graeci (Ph. Pers.); doronicum root.

Achundow; Boiss. 3: 379; Makhjan-el-Adwiya; Ph. Ind. 2: 292; Kew Museum.

Field 168; K.B. 315.

This ancient drug is said to have come originally from Greece and Syria. *D. scorpioides* Lam. affords some supplies of the drug,

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as a plaster to sores and wounds. The drug contains resin 65, gum 20, and essential oil 10 to 20 per cent.

Ferula persica Willd. (Umbelliferae)

بکبینج

Sakbīnaj (Teh.); Saka-binaja (Ar.); Sek binedge (Schl.); Sagapenum gum.

Achundow; Ait.; Schl.; Laufer 366; Ph. Ind. 2: 161.

Field 163; K.B. 317; W.H.M.M. 150922.

Sagapenum is a fragrant gum-resin obtained from Laristan and Kerman. It is found in the market in tears or agglutinated into brownish yellow cakes with a persistent, alliaceous odor and acrid taste. It yields on distillation a volatile oil containing sulphur. [314]

The drug has a local reputation as a plaster for rheumatism and lumbago.—Mixed with linseed oil it forms a salve for the relief of piles and pains in the back (H.F.).

Ferula Sumbul Hook. f. (Umbelliferae)

ریشه کلفس

Rīshah-i-kalafs, Sumbul, also the name for celery root (Teh.); musk or violet root.

Field 134.

This is a large, perennial plant of Samarkand. The root is thick and fusiform, light and spongy, transversely wrinkled, with corky, brown bark, and fibrous, whitish interior with resinous cells. The odor is strong and musk-like, and the taste bitter and aromatic. It is employed as a stimulant, nervine tonic, and antispasmodic, given in hysteria and nervous disorders.

Ficus Carica L. (Moraceae)

تین

Tin; common fig.

The edible fig grows wild in the mountain valleys of Kurdistan and in the foothills, and is also cultivated throughout Iraq as a fruit tree (G.).—The figs are usually sold strung on cords hung from the ceiling (H.F.). [262] [245]

Foeniculum vulgare Mill. (Umbelliferae)

ریشه رازیانه

Rīshah-i-rāziyānah (Teh.); the root of fennel.

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crushed, a spicy odor, and possess a strong, spicy, and bitter taste. They have a stimulant and antiseptic action on the mucous membrane of the genito-urinary organs, and are also a diuretic.

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Pistacia integerrima Stew. (Anacardiaceae)

چهار تخوش

Chahār tankhūsh (Teh.); Chatlanguch (Ham.); Kharshnai (Kash.); fruits.

W.H.M.M. 150839; K.B. 331.

This is the northwestern Himalayan form of the turpentine tree, called also the false or donkey mastich. The small drupes are broader than long, 5 by 6 mm., glabrous, rugose, gray with a bony stone. They have a marked terebinthinate odor, and are used locally to impart flavor to milk.

جفت

Field 201; W.H.M.M. 150706.

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Under the name of Jift or Juft, the broken shells of the galls of the turpentine tree are sold in Tehran. Being very astringent, they are used for tanning; mixed with lime, they remove hair from skins.

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Pistacia Khinjuk Stocks, (Anacardiaceae)

حب الغار

Habbu'l ghār (Isf.); Habul-khazra (Teh.); Hebbul-beneh (Ar.); the fruits.

Field 449; 116 (Iraq); K.B. 331.

سبز قلنج

Subz-i-gulanj (Teh.); Buzghanj (Ham., Isf.); Gul-i-pisteh (Bom.); Afs-el-batum (Tri.); the galls.

Ait.; Boiss. 2: 6; I.H.B.; Ph. Ind. 1: 377.

Field 422; W.H.M.M. 150878; K.B. 331.

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This tree is common in Iran, Baluchistan, and Afghanistan, and has been described under different species names. The tree yields a resin-like material, and the nuts, which are eaten, afford a sweet oil; the leaves and galls are employed for tanning. The small, seed-like fruits are oval in shape, 6 mm. long, reddish brown in color, with an acid taste and terebinthinate odor. The fruits are eaten and are said to be good for debility.—Prepared like tea, they relieve stomach pains (H.F.).